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Advocate of Peace.

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The Attitude of the New Administration.

The announcement by President Wilson and Secretary of State Bryan of the attitude of the new Administration on international affairs has caused no surprise. It is what was to have been expected, in view of the conspicuous utterances of the two men in former years.

Acting in the spirit of genuine respect for other nations and their rights and institutions, of cordial friendly co-operation with them, of good-will and brotherliness, the Administration will, we are confident, do everything in its power to promote the further development of such international practices, customs, and institutions as will assure permanent good relations and peace, prevent strife and war, check the current ruinous rivalry in building armaments, and deliver, with as little delay as possible, the people from the heavy and rapidly increasing burdens of the "armed peace."

The peace party of the country, and indeed of the world, appreciates intensely the attitude which the Administration has taken, and may be depended upon to support, heart and soul, the most advanced measures which it may be possible to take to secure these important ends. It is needless to say that it will take time and much deliberation and careful planning to bring these great measures to even partial realization, but the Administration may be assured that the true friends of peace throughout the nation, while most anxious to see something done speedily, will be duly patient and sympathetic.

The task which lies before the President and his colleagues in this direction is one of the most noble and inspiring, and at the same time most difficult, with which an Administration has ever been confronted. We may well all pray that special divine light and wisdom may be granted them, and, above all, the unfaltering courage to do their duty as God has given them to see it.

"Drunkenness over Armaments."

The foregoing expression has been used by a German daily, *The Frankfurter Zeitung*, to characterize the new access of military delirium in Germany. It is none too strong, and applies equally well to all of the group of European military powers.

There seems to be no extreme to which the army and navy promoters, either in government or out of it, are not ready to go on the slightest provocation—indeed, without any provocation at all. The stupendous cost, the ultimate relative uselessness of the increases, the final catastrophe and ruin if the thing goes on, all go for nothing when the spasm is on. Everything that is vital in the national life is sacrificed without hesitation, that the military and naval defenses, on which the safety of the country is assumed chiefly to depend, may be kept strong enough to meet any imagined emergency.

Such spasms of fright and mad rushes to increase armaments as those now occurring in Europe belong to the very nature of the system of competitive armaments. They are inevitable, and no one should be surprised when they come. As soon as one power is thrown into a position of comparative superiority, for no matter what reason, shivers of fear run through all the rest, and the hammers at once begin to bang in the navy construction yards and new regiments are summoned to the colors in other countries. No delusion can be greater than that of those who believe, if they do believe, that assurance of security and freedom from attack and disaster can be procured on the lines of competing armaments. The natural fruit of such a policy is, and always will be, suspicion, fear, false alarms, and pitiable panics.